



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**DECEMBER 6, 2002**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TANZANIAN MAN SENTENCED FOR BANK FRAUD**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Tanzania citizen was sentenced today for his role in a scheme to defraud UMB Bank of Kansas City.

**Abraham B. Shaaban**, 26, a citizen of Tanzania living in Kansas City-North, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to one year in prison without parole. The court also ordered **Shaaban** to pay \$8,858.33 in restitution to UMB Bank. **Shaaban** will be subject to deportation after the completion of his sentence. Graves explained that, although **Shaaban** never actually attended school, he entered the United States on September 13, 1999 on a student visa that expired on September 1, 2001.

On July 18, 2002, **Shaaban** pleaded guilty to bank fraud. **Shaaban** attempted to defraud UMB Bank in Kansas City, Graves said, by depositing a counterfeit check.

**Shaaban** opened a checking account at UMB Bank, 1415 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, Mo., in the name of Zanzibar American Culture Alliance on April 1, 2002. On April 26, 2002, **Shaaban** made a \$59,725.25 deposit into that account from the UMB Bank Gladstone Price Chopper Branch at 4820 North Oak Trafficway – \$400 in cash and a \$59,325.25 check drawn on Scotiabank in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. That check, Graves said, was later returned to UMB Bank by Scotiabank as counterfeit. **Shaaban** withdrew cash from that account as well as transferring funds from the Zanzibar American Culture Alliance to other accounts.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Parker Marshall. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Kansas City, Mo. Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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